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A POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND LITERARY JOURNAL.

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YOKOHAMA, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1874.

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BIRTH.

At No. 73, Main Street, on the 15th instant, the Wife of ARTHUR BRENT, Esq., of a Son.

Notes of the Week.

H. M. THE MIKADO and the Empress, attended by their respective suites, visited the Lighthouse Establishment at Benten on Wednesday. A more detailed account of the visit will be found elsewhere.

Their Majesties visited the Gas Works on Thursday and returned to Yedo on the same day.

THE *Nishin Shinjishi* of the 18th instant states that Shimadzu Hisamitsu and Saigō arrived at Yokohama on the 17th and afterwards proceeded to Yedo. This may be taken, it says, as a proof that there is no truth in the disquieting rumours about the condition of the province of Satsuma, and to show that quiet has been restored in the western provinces.

THE great question of the moment is: Has the discontent in which the late troubles originated, expended itself? That there is much floating opinion to the contrary among foreigners, is well known; and that this opinion is derived from well informed Japanese in high positions, is also certain. But, curiously enough, so far as we have heard of these opinions, they seem us coloured with a latent hope that such troubles may again arise, though we are unable to say what are the grounds of these hopes. Political partisanship or material interest may have something to do with them, though it is sufficiently sad that the latter should produce such effects. The proverbial danger of prophecying did not deter us, on the outbreak of the late insurrection, from expressing our views of the future with entire frankness, and though these views were received with some distrust, they have proved to be entirely correct. Especially we would refer to the action and attitude of Shimadzu Hisamitsu (Saburō) upon which great distrust was felt, a feeling so widespread that in the proclamation of the Prime Minister, issued during the week ending the 21st February, and published in our issue of that date, reference was made to it in the following words:—

Shimadzu Junii, hearing of the state of Kiushiu, asked leave to go down to assist in maintaining order. The Emperor was much gratified at this proof of his loyal feelings and despatched him to the *ken* of Kagoshima, for which place he will leave in a few days. *Any suspicions which may have been excited by Shimadzu's movements are quite uncalled for, and should not be entertained.*

In a leading article on "The Situation," of about the same time, we argued that the apprehensions in regard to Shimadzu Saburo's fidelity were, in all probability, entirely groundless, and that his political virtue might be safely relied on at this grave crisis. And his return to the capital this week, in company with Saigo Kichinosuke, fully confirms these views, while the presence and counsel of these two prominent men will give strength to the Government at this moment. Their return to Yedo implies entire confidence in the Satsuma clan, while their stay in the South must have brought them into contact with men capable of advising them unerringly in regard to the condition of feeling of the clan, the views of the disaffected men in Tosa and Hizen, the real causes of the late outbreak, the strength of the party which desires war with Corea, and the general state of the public mind in regard to the measure which has had so much to do with the late discontents.

We set especial value upon the return of Shimadzu Hisamitsu. He appears to be almost the only man who can fearlessly tell the Government unpleasant truths, and whose acquaintance with the politics of the last twenty years is so large as to constitute him an excellent, as he is an independent, adviser. Of his personal character it is impossible that foreigners should know much. But we venture to think that he is one of those men who can dismiss the very strongest convictions, and the whole line of policy they involved, when a *fait accompli* has to be faced, and another line of policy has to be taken. Bitter and determined at first, against foreigners and the new policy of the Government, he now sees that the gates are absolutely closed against any return to the old condition of affairs, and sets himself to point out those errors which have been made in following out a new line of policy which he loyally accepts as necessary and sound. Such an adviser at the side of a monarch is invaluable. The days of personal ambition have passed, the judgment has been ripened by a large experience of men and affairs, political sagacity has taken the place of prejudice and passion, high birth and rank place him at ease among men of less distinguished antecedents, and, having dismissed the past as irrevocable, his whole mind is bent towards working out the problems of the present and the future.

The obnoxious measure in which the late outbreak apparently for the most part originated, has not been recalled, nor would it have been wise to recall it. But, if we are correctly informed, it has been allowed to fall into abeyance, and probably we shall hear nothing more of it for the present. Of course, it was a bad measure; but the ideas underlying it were, in our opinion, excellent. We think that the statesman who will convert all these *samurai*, many of whom are men of good education and intelligence, from an idle into an industrious class, and make them add to the wealth of the country instead of consuming that wealth, giving nothing in return for the support they derive from the country, will be a great benefactor to Japan. But he must satisfy the views of justice held by this large and powerful class—a matter which it will be more difficult to do now that their partially successful remonstances and discontent have given them more cause for being hard in their bargain than we are quite contented to see.

We do not share the views of those who apprehend further and graver troubles later in the year. The Government certainly dealt with the recent discontent with a good deal of vigour, and there is not at this moment a single existing doubt that the outbreak has been utterly stamped out. All misgivings regarding the power of the Government to deal with such movements must be effectually dispelled, and the lesson given to the insurgents of the South will not be without its effect upon unquiet spirits elsewhere.

But, for all this, as we have said, there is still a certain amount of uneasiness abroad, which we cannot ignore, and which the late successes of the Government have not dispelled. The translations which will be found to day among our "Japanese Notes" are specially interesting, and reflect alike movements among the nobles and sturdy dissatisfaction among the people.

The *Gazette* announced on the 10th instant that the Mikado had given his sanction to the formation of a deliberative assembly, and that this presaged the cessation of all trouble. The fact may be as stated, though we have no information to this effect; but the connection between the fact and the inference drawn from it is not so apparent.

OUR only regret in regard to the action taken this week by the Fire Insurance Offices is that they did not come to their resolve years ago. The enquiries they propose to institute will, we are quite convinced, have the effect of reducing the number of fires which occur in this settlement, whether they arise from the faulty construction of houses, the use of stoves and stove-piping, or any other cause whatever.

It is extremely difficult for any given office to institute an enquiry into the origin of a fire by which it has itself suffered. The offices will not alienate business, and it is only when the *prima facie* grounds for such enquiry are so strong as to invite, almost to compel, it, that any action is ever taken. But by a combined action of all the offices, enquiries may be made which will lead to results of very great value, and though the Committee now appointed has no power to compel the attendance of witnesses, it is certain that there will always be enough good evidence volunteered to throw light upon the circumstances attending each fire which breaks out.

As regards the best mode of dealing with fires when they arise, we shall never attain to this, unless, or until, powers of a very large nature are placed in the hands of some body or individual, to be exercised at will on such emergencies, and with a full sense that indemnity will be granted to any act he or they may commit or cause to be committed in the large discretion which must be granted for this purpose.

THE amateur theatrical entertainment at the German Club on Saturday evening last was very enjoyable, and very much appreciated. The first piece, *Ein Bengalischer Tiger*, is not very clever, but it was well given, and presented many points of amusement. But the second, *Guten Morgen, Herr Fischer*, though extravagant to the last degree, is very clever, and extremely amusing. It opens, for instance, admirably. The serenade sung by some unknown voice on the Spree, is overheard by the elder Aurora, the rebellious Clara, and the *Meierstricken Guste*, each of whom thinks it intended for herself. —Was ever serenader so fortunate? —*Amandus Fischer* springing from the basket and pursuing the elderly dame with *Ich liebe, Ich liebe*, quite independently of any specific object of love, is excellent nonsense, and it was so extremely well done that the audience enjoyed it thoroughly. The extravagant drollness of the play is maintained to the last, the dialogue throughout is clever, and is kept up to a well-sustained pitch of amusing nonsense, to which the soft dialect of Berlin lends itself extremely well. If it is fair, amid so much good acting as the play produced, we must make our special compliments to Fraulein Dodo Huhn-kraak (in spite of her name). Her make-up, her acting, singing and grave comicality were the themes of exceptional admiration—and quite justly so. Such amateur acting, under circumstances so difficult, is as exceptional as it is delightful.

AT a meeting of the Young Men's Literary Society held on Friday evening, a paper was read by R. H. Brunton, Esq., on "Optics as applied to Lighthouse Apparatus." The subject was very ably treated in a popular manner, and was divested with extraordinary care from those technicalities which could only be understood by those well acquainted with the science. The principles were carefully defined, and the arrangements for applying those principles in the formation of the apparatus very clearly explained by means of diagrams, and excellently illustrated by several varieties of lights. The inclemency of the weather was unfortunate, as there was not as large an attendance as might have been expected; but we hope a suggestion made will be carried out in order that so interesting and valuable a paper may not be lost, viz., that Mr. Brunton can be persuaded to repeat it in some larger place, where any one who feels inclined may be initiated in the scientific principles the practical application of which has been, of late years, so perfectly effected in the Optical Apparatus of Lighthouses.

WE have been requested to state that the new revolving light apparatus exhibited yesterday to H. M. The Mikado—a

work of great interest and beauty—is now open to the inspection of the public at the Lighthouse Establishment at Benten.

ONE of the chief leaders in the late rebellion, named Shima, has been captured in the province of Satsuma. By a decree which appeared a day or two ago, he and Etô Shimpei are deprived of their patents of rank.

A LARGE fire occurred at Noge last Sunday night, by which several buildings were destroyed.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS, YOKOHAMA STATION.

17th March, 1874.

Statement of Traffic Receipts for the week ending Sunday, 16th March, 1874.

Passengers.....	26,004.	Amount.....	\$7,675.98
Goods, Parcels, &c.....			634.08
Total.....			\$8,309.46
Average per mile per week \$461.64.			
Miles open, 18.			
Corresponding week 1873.			
Number of Passengers, 26,733.		Amount	\$8,237.82.

THE TRADE IN SILK-WORMS' EGGS.

THE translation we published last week of the manifesto of the Silk-worms' egg dealers, is deserving of more notice than we could then afford to give it. For, in the first place, it puts some more or less pertinent questions to the Government in a tone which is quite uncommon in such documents; and, in the second, it shows that the very steps taken by the Government last year to protect the trade have resulted in great disasters to those who carry it on.

The first point is noticeable in its relation to the growth of a class, and of feelings in that class, of which we think the Government of this country has hitherto had no large experience, but which it has no reason to dread, provided the legislation in regard to trade is wise and liberal. We have always looked forward to the rise in this country of a commercial class emancipated from the thralldom of caste which has hitherto been such a blight upon it, and gradually developing such intelligence in regard to its interests, if not to the more recondite causes on which those interests are based, that its recommendations will carry with them a weight due to their own intrinsic value, and a power arising from the wealth they represent. The tone of the Memorial under review does not forbid the further indulgence of this hope.

The second point, viz.: the disasters to the dealers produced by the action of the Government, is one much more difficult to deal with. This action divides itself into two parts: the one, fiscal; the other, economical. By the first, a tax is imposed upon an article of which Japan has the monopoly in the world, a tax which falls ultimately upon Europe, as it clearly should. It is not easy to point out a more perfectly legitimate source of revenue to Japan than this; nor do we think that the tax is excessive, unless it can be shewn that the sums demanded in payment for the cards are so heavy as to cripple the dealers in the later preparation of them, and, so far as we can see, there is no evidence or complaint of this. By the second, the Government limits the production of seed, and though the dealers complain of this, we are hardly prepared to echo their complaints. That injury might easily ensue to the breed of silk-worms in Japan from an excessive production of seed, is as certain as any fact connected with natural history; and much as we are inclined, on general principles, to deprecate the interference of government in

matters of trade, we think that such interference is exceptionally justified where the selfish principle in human nature, which is the primary motive power of commerce, would probably lead to the sacrifice of the future to the present. What are the two alternatives? The first is to sell a certain increased quantity of eggs, bringing its present gain to the country, and corresponding taxes into the Exchequer, at the possible, if not probable, cost of a deteriorated race of silk-worms. The second is to forego this extra gain and this increased revenue, avoiding, as compensation for such loss, all possible risk of weakening the breed of silk-worms, on which the future foreign trade of the country largely depends. Who can doubt what would, under such circumstances, be the course of a prudent Government? All that is left dark at this moment, is the quantity of cards which will be supplied to the dealers and to which the supply of eggs will be limited. The Government can be under no compulsion to declare this quantity, and will doubtless keep it secret, for reasons which are perfectly obvious, and against which protest would not only be unreasonable but unjust. Last year the policy of the Government was faulty, as we pointed out, inasmuch as it left the European dealers in doubt whether a very considerable quantity of cards, known to have produced, would be allowed to be exported or not. Thus, high and even excessive prices were paid for over a million of cards, and when the demand was virtually satisfied, the dealers came in with the remainder of their stock, the permission to export which had been since granted, and, meeting with little or no demand for them, made heavy losses on this balance. Mischief was therefore wrought on both sides, but especially to the native dealers, who must have kept their stock in ignorance of the intentions of the Government.

In our last issue we published a translation of the Notification regulating the trade of last year, and we now publish that which has been issued for the same purpose this year. It is more compact than its predecessor, and in marked by additions on the one hand, and omissions on the other, which are not undeserving of notice. Among the former, Article VIII of the new regulations provides that informers against any person who may infringe them will be rewarded by shares of fines or confiscations, and it is more than probable that the successful evasion of the vigilance of the authorities last year, which led to a large contraband trade, has inspired this clause. The noticeable omission, on the other hand, is that of the following clause, part of Article VII in the Regulations of 1873. "The silk-worms' eggs grower must send in a detailed account in the month of March of the following year showing how he has disposed of his crop." It was well to omit this clause, which carries in it the radical vice of Japanese commercial legislation, viz; that of prying into every transaction, and thus repressing the free spirit under which trade best thrives. It was remarked a few evenings back, in a discussion which took place at the Asiatic Society's Meeting, that the Japanese children rarely cried or quarrelled, and this was attributed in a great measure to the fact that their parents and nurses let them do as they liked, and have what they wished. Whether this is a good discipline for children or not, we shall not discuss here; but we are profoundly convinced that if this principle were more freely applied to trade we should not only get rid of the lamentations and whining by which its stunted growth is at present attended, but should find it a lusty thriving child, full of vigour and promise. It is not often that we have such a chance of killing two birds with one stone, but we venture to think

that if a little more discipline were administered in Japanese nurseries, even at the expense of a few tears, and a little more freedom were granted to trade, we should soon see improvements in two very desirable directions.

THE FUTURE OF THE SILVER MARKET.

THE following extract from an article in *L'Economiste Français* of the 10th January, entitled "The Revision of the Monetary Convention of 1865" is so important in its bearings on the future of the Eastern Exchanges that we have translated it in the belief that it will prove interesting and useful.

After touching in his preface on the question of the double standard the writer goes on to say:—

"The question of fact which it seems to us important to settle, is, whether the present and progressive depreciation of silver is transitory and presents only the character of an occasional phenomenon, or if, on the contrary, it can be considered as permanent and susceptible of increase in the future. In the first case, that is, if the decline in the value of silver is the result of transient causes, it would be sufficient, in order to cut short the evil we have pointed out, to adopt by common accord the half measure suggested, and which would consist in suspending the making of the 5 franc pieces by the Mints of the four countries, until the silver coin had regained its old value relatively to gold on the basis fixed by the law of the year IX. But if there are solid reasons for thinking that the depreciation of silver is due to general causes, which will produce notable effects in the future, then the suspension of this coinage would be a mere palliative without remedial power. We must then adopt the principle of a sole standard of gold, and fix a maximum figure above which silver money cannot be regarded as a legal tender for obligations.

The principal discussion will therefore bear upon this point:—what are the real causes for the decline in the value of silver? If it be true, as is maintained by the partisans of a double standard, that the cause is single, and owing solely to the monetary transformation in Germany, this is a cause which we may regard as transitory, and which will not have an indefinite duration. If the members of the Conference are of this opinion, they may be content with the half measure, that is, interdicting the striking of more 5 franc pieces, to remedy an evil which is only transitory. If, however, the opinion of one of the members of the Conference, M. Feer-Herzog, delegate from Switzerland, is adopted, according to which the decline in silver has arisen from excessive production of that metal—from the plethora of silver into which the Eastern markets have fallen, and, finally, from an irrevocable change in the habits of the public and the processes of circulation; then it is obvious that we are brought face to face with causes of permanent depreciation.

Our readers are aware that we share the opinion of M. Feer-Herzog. In the *Economist Français* of the 6th December 1873 we published the instructive tables drawn up by this member of the Conference, which appeared to us convincing. The real cause for the decline in silver is not the monetary transformation of Germany. It is the excess of production; it is the closing of the Eastern markets which no longer require that metal; it is, in fine, an irrevocable change in the habits of the public and in the means of circulation.

The annual production of silver has risen uninterruptedly, since 1861, from 258,000,000 of francs to 371,000,000 in 1870, an increase of 50 per cent in twenty years. It is probable that this increased production of silver will continue in an accelerating ratio. In proportion as the population of the eastern (?) western) states of North America, notably, of Nevada and Arizona, increases, and railways are constructed there, the production of silver will grow in proportions which it is impossible to determine, but which threaten to be considerable.

Coincidently with this increased annual production of silver, the use of the metal becomes more and more restricted. The cause which hitherto has sustained its value is its absorption in the markets of the East. It is

still believed in Europe that India, China and Japan now make a large annual demand for silver. But this is a grave error ; it is true that it once was so, but it is so no longer. From 1850 to 1860, and even from 1860 to 1865, the exports of silver to the East were very considerable. In the first period they attained to, and in the second period they exceeded, the production of this metal. From 1850 to 1860, the total production of silver rose to two milliards 365 millions of francs (frs. 2,365,000,000) and the exports to the East were two milliards and 244 millions of francs. These figures are nearly equal. From 1860 to 1865, the total production of silver was 1,605 millions of francs, and the exports of silver to the Eastern markets rose to 1,627 millions of francs, that is to say they were 22 millions of francs in excess of the production during the same period. On the other hand, in the quinquennial period from 1866 to 1870, the total production of silver rose to 1,785 millions of francs, and the quantity exported to the East was only 540 millions. Thus India, China and Japan absorbed from 1850 to 1865 the whole production of silver of the world ; to-day these same countries do not even receive the third of this production.

The causes of this change are not difficult to discover. In the early history of our trade with the East we bought much from the orientals, and they bought little from us. Nearly all our purchases had to be paid for in cash. To-day, the orientals buy from us nearly as much as they sell us, we pay them almost entirely in merchandize, and it is only a small balance for which we have to pay them in cash. Formerly, too, the orientals knew little else than silver money ; now, they have learnt to know and to appreciate gold, which they prefer to silver. Lastly, the European banks established in these regions, have habituated the orientals to much more rapid means of circulation and of exchange, which day by day render silver less necessary.

Is it necessary for us further to dwell upon the third cause for the depreciation of silver, and to prove that the use of it is distasteful to the new habits of civilized nations, that this metal is to-day too cumbrous and too difficult of transportation to serve as a medium for the immense transactions of our time ? In proportion as the stock of it increases and its value declines, silver becomes more and more unsuitable to serve as a basis for the vast business of these days.

Thus, the causes for the fall in the value of silver present much of a permanent character, and every thing leads to the belief that they will operate more powerfully in the future than they have in the past."

The article concludes with a strong expression of opinion that, in view of the facts above quoted, the abolition of the double standard, in countries where it has hitherto been maintained, is the clear duty of the Governments of those countries.

VISIT OF THE MIKADO TO THE LIGHT-HOUSE DEPARTMENT.

The disposition on the one side, and the advice on the other, which have induced the Mikado of Japan to take a personal interest in the more important public works which have been inaugurated during his reign, are worthy of all commendation. The seclusion in which most Eastern monarchs are brought up, and in which, indeed, the Mikado himself passed his earlier years, might naturally have indisposed him for excursions of this nature, and been pleaded as an excuse for leaving the inspection of these works to such of his Ministers as are charged with their organization. But no such course has been taken. The Mikado opened the Railway in person ; he subsequently visited and inspected the Mint ; he has paid two visits to the Arsenal at Yokoska, the latter in company with the Empress ; he more recently opened the New School of Foreign Languages at Yedo, and on the afternoon of the 18th instant, he paid a visit of inspection to the Lighthouse Department at Benten, in which he was also accompanied by the Empress and their respective suites. The visit was of a semi-private nature, though cards of admission were sent to the representatives of the Press—a wise measure seeing how important it is for this country to use all legitimate means for making known to

the Western world, and, indeed, to the rest of the Eastern world, as well, the steps it is taking in its lately adopted course.

The lighting of the coasts of Japan was the result of one of the clauses of the Convention of 1866 made after the Shimoneoseki affair. By this clause the Japanese Government bound itself to light the approaches to the open ports, a course in the highest degree necessary for the development of the coasting trade, then comparatively in its infancy, but since grown to such large proportions through the enterprise of the Pacific Mail Company and other agencies. An application was made to the British Government for its advice and assistance in the matter, and the request was responded to by the Board of Trade, which gave to the Japanese Government the benefit of its wide experience in regard to the question on which this advice was sought. Mr. R. H. Brunton was recommended as Engineer-in-chief of the Japanese Establishment, and the works were commenced without delay. We have on former occasions given such ample particulars of the Lighthouses erected on this coast, that it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. But we may mention that the Japanese Government have by no means restricted their efforts in this direction within the limits prescribed by the Convention of 1866. The advantages derived by their own junk trade from the erection of the Lighthouses on the points recommended by the Commission which sat for this purpose, were so great, that the Government extended the system beyond the limits originally defined, and are still extending it. The West coast is as yet almost entirely unlighted, and in view of the large coasting junk trade between the provinces of Dowa and Nagatto, the illumination of this long coast line is in a high degree desirable, and is, we believe, so far determined on, that the work will be undertaken when the many other important demands on the Exchequer permit it.

Preparations of a simple yet tasteful nature had been made at the Lighthouse Establishment for the visit of the Imperial party. A reception room, decorated with flowers, carpeted, and hung round with plans and drawings connected with the works, had been prepared ; the walks between the different divisions of the works were freshly gravelled ; flags were flying to lend their gay colours to the enlivenment of the scene, and all the officials of the Department were mustered in full dress to do honour to the occasion.

The Imperial party started from Yedo by the 3 o'clock train and arrived at 4 o'clock at the Yokohama station, whence they at once proceeded to the Lighthouse establishment. They were accompanied by the Principal Ministers of State, the Foreign Representatives were also present, while the proceedings were further graced by the presence of a number of foreign ladies who viewed them from the upper verandah of one of the houses on the grounds of the establishment.

The dress of the Empress and her ladies was gorgeous and picturesque, through it was marked by combinations of colours which our own views do not sanction. His Majesty arrived on horseback attended by a body-guard, while the Empress and her suite followed in carriages. The Imperial party were ushered into the reception chamber—a room used as the school-room attached to the establishment, and the Emperor took his place at a small table, to the left of which, and separated from it by a few feet, was another, similarly covered with rich native drapery, at which the Empress took her place. His Majesty first received the Foreign Representatives who were presented by Terashima, Minister for Foreign Affairs, after which Hirobumi Ito, Minister of Public Works, presented Mr. Brunton and the Chief Officers of the Lighthouse Department. In the ante-room adjoining the reception chamber hung a chart showing the position and range of all the Lighthouses erected on the coast, as also a framed table showing the date of the erection and cost of each. There was also exhibited on the walls a bird's-eye view of a proposed harbour for Yokohama which has recently been designed by Mr. Brunton, and which, in all probability, will be carried out. Satow Yozo, Chief Commissioner of the Lighthouse Department, with Mr. Brunton and Mr. Heyashi, acting as interpreter, then proceeded to show the Mikado through the various buildings of the estab-

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blishment. The oil refinery was first visited, but important as this is in the economy of the service it could not be expected to excite much enthusiasm in the spectators. A small experimental retort, however, attracted His Majesty's attention, and its uses were explained to him. The Iron, Oil and General store-houses were then visited, and seemed to excite approbation for the excellent order in which they appeared. The party were then conducted to the machine-shop, where a vertical saw capable of cutting a log 2 feet square into 24 planks at one operation, was at work. This shop is also the home of a 'general joiner,' a most ingenious machine which does all the joinery required in the making of doors and windows, floors, mouldings, and other parts of houses. A couple of lathes are also placed under the same roof. Near these, stands a hydraulic press used for the purpose of testing the quality of bricks and cement, and applied on this occasion to two pillars of brickwork, which were crushed by it, giving way under an indicated pressure of sixty tons. After leaving the machine-shop, The Mikado proceeded to the sheds used for drying timber and for carpenter work, and was shewn the iron screw piles intended for a Lighthouse which is to be erected in a considerable depth of water on the spit off Kawasaki point, half way to Yedo, which has been a source of serious trouble to vessels of foreign construction ever since the port of Yedo has been frequented by them. The spare buoys were next exhibited and their use explained.

After this the Experimental Lighthouse was visited. This building has been erected principally for the purpose of training young Japanese light-keepers before sending them down the coast, so that an estimate may be formed of their suitability before enrolling them in the service. It is also intended to try new lamps in, and to adjust there any apparatus which may have been broken or sustained damage on its way from England. The building has three storeys; the lower intended as a room for repairing broken lamps, for measuring the strength of flames, and doing such small and delicate work as is required in the Department; the second floor is the store-room for the light, where the oil, wicks, and other things required in the nightly service are kept, precisely as in an actual Lighthouse. The third storey is what is known as the light-room. Its walls are hung with the diagrams of the different flames of the lamps in use, by which the lightkeepers can judge when the actual flame is maintained at or falls below its proper height. A clock, barometer and thermometer, &c. are also hung on the walls, and in the centre of the room is placed the machine, driven by means of a weight of about two cwt., which causes the apparatus to revolve. The lantern which has been erected on the Experimental Lighthouse was built entirely in Yokohama, and is of the ordinary size of 1st order lanterns.

The apparatus now in the lantern is one intended for Inaboye Saki—about 100 miles N.W. of Yokohama, one of the most dangerous points on the coast between here and Hakodate. The Lighthouse is nearly completed, and the apparatus will probably be sent there in two or three months. It is what is technically known as a 1st order, half-minute, revolving, dioptric apparatus. It is of the largest size made, being about 6 feet in diameter and 9 feet high. It has eight faces or sides, each of which gives out a beam of parallel rays of light. It makes a complete revolution once in four minutes, so that each face, and the beams emitted by it, come before the eye of the observer every half minute. It is dioptric only in so far as it is entirely made of glass; but the central discs only of the apparatus are purely dioptric—that is to say, that they parallelize the rays by refraction alone; while the prisms above and below the disc are cata-dioptric, or, partially refract, and partially reflect, the rays. This system, which has only been introduced within the last forty or fifty years, has produced the most perfect of all forms of apparatus. It collects every ray of light emitted from the flame of the lamps, and projects them in eight beams. The lamp used is one of Doty's 4-wick burners, consuming mineral oils, and is found to give considerably more power than the lamps formerly in common use in lighthouses. With the exception of the Electric Light, therefore, it is the most powerful light shewn by ordinary means in any lighthouse, and is fitted

with all the most recent improvements which men of science have suggested and adopted.

In the lower floor of the Lighthouse, which was darkened for the occasion, were placed the different sizes and kinds of lamps used in lighthouses, from the large 4-wick burner down to the ordinary argand; and, to illustrate the progress made in this department of science during the last seventy years, an ordinary sperm candle was also placed alight in the room. The Mikado examined these for some time, and then ascended the stairs and entered the inside of the apparatus, where the effect is very dazzling and peculiar.

Subsequently to this, an iron Lighthouse which is in course of construction, was examined, as also the blacksmith's shops, after which His Majesty entered the drawing offices, where he examined the working drawings of the Lighthouses, and asked various questions in explanation of them. He also appeared much interested in the various philosophical instruments which were placed round the walls, after examining which he returned to the reception room and remained there until sunset. He then proceeded to the branch office of the Okurasho, from the verandah of which he viewed the light which was lighted for the occasion. The greatest interest in the Imperial visit was manifested by the people, who, dressed in holiday attire, thronged to the works at Benten, and have since inspected these in thousands.

After taking dinner, His Majesty, the Empress, and the party enjoyed the scene presented from the balcony of the house where they were entertained. The district in which it lies was bathed in the flood of light thrown by the great lamp which His Majesty had just inspected, vast crowds of spectators thronged the streets which were hung with innumerable lanterns of all shapes and sizes, and universal satisfaction and pleasure seemed to reign. A Japanese crowd at night never becomes riotous with hilarity, or brutal because the glare of daylight has disappeared. The native politeness of the people never leaves them, and their amiable nature and temper lends itself so readily to occasions of this kind that it is a pleasure to see them in holiday dress and with holiday hearts, gay, smiling, and mirthful, yet orderly, sober and obedient.

On the following morning their Majesties visited the Gas Works, where they were received by Messrs. Pelegrin and Ulbrich, the managing superintendents, who conducted them over the establishment, explaining its various branches and drawing attention to objects of interest and curiosity. Royalty in search of instruction must sometimes come into contact with disagreeables, and the illustrious party were nearly suffocated and poisoned by the abominable smells emitted from the useful apparatus in the Gas Works during their visit.

At 11 a.m. on Friday the Imperial party returned to Yedo by railway.

We have already expressed the satisfaction which should be, and doubtless is, generally felt at the visits which the Court pays to those public works which are aiding in the peaceful revolution of this Empire. But there is yet one feature of these visits to which we venture to allude, and in which we trust that the time is becoming ripe for making some change. We have now watched for some years with sympathy, and striven by every means in our power to advance—even if that power has extended no further than announcing and diffusing intelligence of it,—the progress of this country and the aspirations of its statesmen. We have witnessed events showing the extraordinary rapidity with which this progress has been made, and could we but feel more security in regard to the solid nature of it, our frequent criticism would more often take the form of congratulation than it has done. Regarding from an European point of view, as we naturally must, these efforts towards attaining an European civilization, we are struck with one relic of the old condition of affairs, and of this relic we are anxious to witness the disappearance. The position of women in the East—as we have lately argued—is out of all reasonable comparison below that of men, in relation to European standards, and it cannot be questioned that the future of this country will largely depend upon the efficiency with which the wives of this generation second the efforts which are being made by their husbands,

their fathers and brothers. Some great change must take place in their social status before they are able to play the part in society which will fit them to render this assistance. There is not only no equality between the men and the women, but a line seems to be drawn beyond which the influence of women cannot reach. It must be otherwise in the future if the reforms in this country are to be permanent. The respect which we entertain for the exalted rank of our visitors of this week limits us to the record of the events connected with it. But no European, writing on such a subject, can fail to remember that the appearance of an Asiatic monarch in public differs so far from that of one of his European brothers, that while the wife of the one accompanies him on equal terms, the other receives the homage of his subjects alone, separated by a thousand restrictions of conventional and traditional etiquette from one who may be the mother of his children, and who should be the principal influence in directing at least the earlier course of their minds. We hope we may live to see the day, and that that day may not be far distant, when the Ruler of Japan enters his carriage after the illustrious Lady who graced the settlement this week with her presence, and, seated beside her, proclaims by this act and this position, that from that time forward the women of Japan are not only recognized as fitted for, but are called upon to take, their place beside their husbands, and to minister to that movement which their sons must persevere with if it is to be effective and permanent.

JAPANESE NOTES.

A PLEA FOR WAR WITH COREA AND JUSTIFICATION FOR DISCONTENT.

(*Translation.*)

The present discussions at Saga were prosecuted with care, for the purpose of honouring the Mikado, and of devising means of freeing the minds of all people from anxiety, so that I was at a loss to imagine why they had resulted in war; but when I saw this document I knew for the first time that there was no reason for declaring war on the patriotic men of the Saga Ken, and even I saw that their arguments were good. This is therefore presented to all men having an aim or purpose.

TO ALL PASSERS BY.

THE ARGUMENTS FOR DETERMINING ON WAR.

If the influence of a country is rightly directed, it follows naturally that the power of the people is complete: so that the declaring of war and making of peace can be determined on, and treaties concluded for trade and navigation; but if the influence of a country is lost, but for one day, that country no longer exists.

Take a man for instance, who if he does not get angry when spit upon nor resent it when he is beaten, even women and children will afterwards most certainly despise and scorn him. Such a person is one who has lost all manly feeling.

Lately Corea would not receive the letter from Japan, and insulted the Japanese ambassador. It is indeed impossible to bear to allude to such an affront. From the Mikado first, down to the very lowest, such a great insult has never before been received, consequently at the Council of State held in the 10th month of the past year, it was unanimously decided to make war on Corea, and the Japanese nation having heard this, there was not one who was not eager and enthusiastic. The matter was nearly settled when two or three leading persons actuated by a love of their own ease, argued strongly on the other side, and obstructed the understanding of the Mikado so that at length the discussions (for war) were stopped. Ah! a country losing its prestige has arrived at the worst extremity. It resembles the aforementioned man who does not get angry when spit upon or beaten.

If a country loses its position by such proceedings, all countries beyond the seas will point the hand of scorn at it, and there is no saying where the insults will stop. Assuredly that country will receive directions from all others, as to treaties, in deciding cases, and a hundred other things. In a few years every soul in the country will crouch like small dogs, and it will finally end in their

becoming poor and distressed, and homeless outcasts. It is quite as plain to one as if seen in a mirror.

Such a state of affairs is enough to make a reflective man clench his teeth and hands. Consequently, having consulted with men of like opinion, we desire, both for the sake of the Mikado, and for the sake of all the people, to wash out this great insult, even though we died ten thousand times. This is the duty of all men, and of great importance to the country, so that every one of his own accord may become zealous in the cause.

However, these leading men, seeing it would not be advantageous to them, despatched troops against us. These measures having been taken against us there is no withdrawing, as in former times Choshu took up arms, so we now follow her example.

It is a saying of men of old times, that nothing is impossible if the mind is steadily bent in one direction (i. e. "where there's a will there's a way.") Our single desire is to dispel the clouds and fog, to exalt the Nishiki flag, and to inquire from Corea the reason of the insult. These are insignificant opinions, but we are ready to die for our country's sake.

The Northern division of the Saga Bands. 7th year of Meiji, 15th day of 2nd month. (Endorsement by writer of the Preface).

It is said that besides this document there is a petition comprising eleven heads.

AN APPEAL TO THE NOBLES.

(*Nishin Shinjishi, March 4th, 1874.*)

The following circular has been addressed to the nobles by:—

Nakayama Fadayoshi, Ju ichi i.
Matsudaira Yoshinaga, Shô ni i.
Saga Saneyoshi, Shô ni i.
Ohara Shigenori, Shô ni i.
Naka Mikado Tsuneyuki, Shô ni i.
Date Munenori, Ju ni i.

The nobility are the highest class in a nation. They rank next to the Princes of the Blood Royal, and above the gentry and common people. They receive honour and emolument without any trouble of theirs, and are the special objects of the Sovereign's favour. Why is this so? It is well to understand the reason for it. All the countries of Europe with the exception of republics have a nobility, and in England, in particular, the nobles are a large body of accomplished men skilled in legislation, who meet together in an assembly called Parliament and attend to the business of framing laws. They are the support of the whole country and a protection to the throne. All this is the duty of the noble class; and it is because this is their office that their elevation in rank above all the rest of the population and the special favour of the Sovereign are justifiable. The nobles of our country are, as a rule, men who eat the head of idleness, and are of no service to their country whatever. They rank above the *samurai* and common people, but in learning and capacity they stand below them. When we contemplate this position of our order, it seems intolerable enough to make the sweat trickle from us with shame. We ourselves are already old and have neither ability nor intelligence, but we intend to rouse ourselves to effort, and establish along with you an assembly, to take careful heed of all our words and actions, and to learn from distinguished, intelligent, and practical men the art of legislation, the principles of Parliaments, and whatever else it falls within the province of a noble to make himself acquainted with. Since the Revolution the Emperor has on several occasions addressed the nobility. All these were meant as affectionate stimuluses to activity. Let us humbly respond to the wishes of His Majesty, and making a vow to the gods of heaven and earth, let us keep alive the ancient manly virtues, and become the models for the *samurai* and the common people. Let us be the safeguard of the Sovereign, descended in an unbroken line of descent through ten thousand generations from divine ancestors, and aid in the civilization of the people by laying the first foundation of a parliament, and thus when the time comes afterwards for establishing a deliberative assembly suitable members for it will not be wanting. We may thus be able in some measure to discharge our

responsibilities, to require one part in ten thousand of the Imperial favour, and to show our gratitude for having been born in an age when the progress of learning is placing our country on a level with the other nations of the universe.

These are our firm and unalterable convictions, and we hope by united feeling and effort to put these our views into practice.

What is your opinion ?

WARNINGS IN PLAIN WORDS.

(*Nisshin Shinjissi*, March 15th, 1874.)

I have come up to Yedo a short time ago, and the accounts which reach me of the state of popular feeling in every quarter show that there are many persons who are giving way to indignation and reviling and are attempting to excite disturbance. The *samurai* of the various *ken* in particular would hail with delight any troubles to the Government. They persistently uphold the policy of a war with Corea, and the people are in many places following their example. This is the temper of the gods and of the people of the Empire. That of the Government alone is far different. The reason is the wide chasm which separates rulers and subjects. The *Saga* insurrection was suppressed in a single morning, but no one can say that unity has been restored to the minds of the people of the Empire. I fear the nation is like a man in whose constitution are lurking the germs of some terrible disease. It appears as if the rulers of the Empire were outraging the popular feeling, and never even think of excusing this offence to the nation. This is to treat the Empire as if it were their own property, and is a grievous piece of disloyalty and injustice. In reading the newspapers, too, I find no sincere sorrow for the condition of our country. Their columns are filled with flattery. The temper of the officials is much the same. These are signs of the decay of our nation. Let us hear less of the wealth and strength of Japan, let us speak a little more truth, and try to re-animate in our country the virtues of honesty and simplicity. Ye officials ! think well of what I have said. Heaven, alas ! has no tongue. It is obliged to speak through the mouths of weak men, with fear and trembling.

NAKAMURA MOTO ROBU.
Farmer of the Niigata *Ken*.

REVIEW.

DEATH IN THE TEAPOT. By TI PING KOON. LONDON, EFFINGHAM WILSON 1874; CHINA AND JAPAN, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

The last *London and China Express* tells us that the subject of adulteration of China Tea "continues to excite considerable interest" at home, and the pamphlet before us is apparently part of the outcome of this excitement. The question is not one likely to attract the attention of our native readers, but to foreigners, who cannot generally get at fine Japanese tea, and who hold the article attainable here in much the same estimation as the smell of the inside of an omnibus on a wet day (the nearest approach to the flavour of ordinary Japanese tea yet formulated by experts) it is not without attraction. The fact that Ti Ping Koon was for some time a well-known and esteemed fellow-resident with us will not discline our readers to receive his little *brochure* with favour, while the knowledge that, for many years, he was tea-taster in Canton to a leading China firm, at once justifies our sympathy and guarantees his work.

The *Daily Telegraph's* statement that there are now "lying in the bonded warehouses of the United Kingdom forty million pounds of tea unfit for human consumption," appears to be Ti Ping Koon's text. But he does not agree with that journal's hasty deduction that the hanging, or heavily fining, and consequent commercial suspension, of a few leading tea importers, is the proper and only remedy. An easily applied specific, it seems to have been adopted, in a diluted form, by the various police and county magistrates at home, who—as appears from the law reports—have recently been inflicting £5 or £10 fines, three or four times a week, upon unlucky poor wights of grocers, for selling adulterated tea, with the deterioration of which they have had no more to do than had the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce with the depreciation of Tokugawa *boos*. His pamphlet is intended

to be a defence against the *Telegraph's* imputation on the English tea-taster in China and of the English tea-seller at home. It is also an attempt to put the blame on the right shoulders—those of the native Chinese tea-exporter—and thirdly, it is meant to read a lesson to the English tea-drinker, telling him, (or rather her) how to make good tea, when by chance she gets good leaf—and how to detect the bad. Finally, a remedy is suggested, applicable to the root of the evil, which the author frankly confesses, however, he does not expect to be accepted by "any Chancellor of the Exchequer—Liberal or Conservative." As Mr. Gladstone, however, had not, at the date of his writing, fired the petard which has blown him and his party from the seat of power, it is barely possible that Ti Ping Koon's proposal may not be so hopeless as when he made it. The "next Parliament," elected since he wrote, is not likely to listen to the cry for a "free breakfast table," and the "cheap and nasty" policy which, applied to both domestic and foreign affairs, has so disgusted Englishmen as to have induced a strong Conservative reaction, may now be revised in our Tariff as well as in our Treaties. Be this as it may, we are glad to know that Ti Ping Koon's object :—"to invite discussion, and to stimulate ingenuity in the direction of effecting a cure"—has been achieved at home; it is in reply to his appeal, that we here, at the other side of the world, devote a few paragraphs to a review of his little work.

"Five o'clock tea" is such a delightful institution, so redolent of Pope, and Johnson, and Sheridan, wafting to us, on what we still fondly call its "fragrance," such charming memories of Belinda, and Lady Teazle, and Mrs. Thrale, that it is with the greatest reluctance that we quote this dreadful eye-witness's account of the way in which "lie" green tea is made in Canton, and his warning against its consumption. But, alas ! "the cup that cheers, but not inebriates", has degenerated into a drug, and the pleasures of memory and imagination together do not outweigh the value of a good digestion ! Hear, therefore, what Ti Ping Koon saith :—

"On the Honan side, opposite Canton, I was one day waiting in a native Tea factory until some Tea I had purchased was ready to be weighed. It was a Canton Green Tea, manufactory. I went to the stove where the operatives were at their labours. Before there was an iron pan, and within easy reach was a cup of cold water, and a saucerful of finely powdered Prussian blue, with a small feather in it.

"The operator, for some time, with bared arm and hand, turned over the leaves which were in the pan. Under the united action of his hand above and the fire beneath, the leaves began to twist and curl, and assume circular shape; he was, indeed, making the Tea known as Canton Gunpowder; after awhile he lightly dipped the tip of the feather into the saucer containing the Prussian blue, and with a flick from his other hand, he dispersed the powder delicately and evenly over the leaves in the pan; he then recommenced rolling the leaves so coloured, and after a short time he stretched out his left hand for the cup of water; he took a mouthful, and then, while stirring round the leaves with his right hand, he blew from his mouth—in an equable spraylike form all over the pan, and consequently all over the coloured leaves—the water which he took from the cup. This was of course done to make the colour adhere permanently to the leaves which the heat would fix and make secure.

"I shuddered I had that morning tasted a rather large batch of Canton Green Teas."

Who would not "shudder"? Regularly at five o'clock we shall, for some time, be conscious of a "goose-flesh" sensation, and hope that our hostesses will have carefully followed Ti Ping Koon's instructions, before infusing the beverage they offer us, lest they, too, haply put "Death in the Pot." He says :—

"I advise my readers now, to the end of their lives, whenever they buy green Tea, always to enquire whether it is Canton made? If the answer is Yes—it is for them to purchase or decline as they think discreet; if the answer is No—when they get it home, put a spoonful into a small cup, pour boiling water upon it sufficient to fill the cup, let it stand till it is cold, then pour off the infusion, commonly called the "Tea," put the leaves which are left in the cup into a white basin, fill it nearly with pure cold water, stir the water round with a spoon; the form of every leaf will be visible and distinct. If the colour of the leaves is green, the liquor—that is, the "Tea"—is fit to drink; if black, the leaf is spurious, made in the way I have described, possibly not Tea leaf at all; and the experimentalist may slow-poison himself and his family with the infusion, or pour it down his kitchen sink, whichever he pleases."

Unhappily, the test is one which, in the present day, will seldom comfort the experimentalist. The leaf may be tea, and the picked sample which a tea-drinker here can generally procure from some friend in Hankow or Foochow, is perhaps in every case genuine. But here our advantage ends. There is no mixture of willow, birch, or other vagrant leaf from highway or by-way, hedge or ditch; but the test ordered by Ti Ping Koon will probably give, as it has just given the writer, a re-

sult of immature, mixed and broken leaf. Our old friend, writing years ago on the same subject, spoke with enthusiasm of the fine old teas of the East India Company, as yielding an infusion, rich and clear in colour as Clos Vougeot, with a fragrance which made itself felt immediately over all the tasting room, and a fully formed, perfect leaf, thick and firm to the teeth as a peach's skin ; fit, (we quote from memory) "to furnish a grateful beverage to an Empress, and, when exhausted, to sweep without the thick-piled carpets of her palace." All who have anything to do with tea now must, with a sigh of regret, agree with Ti Ping Koon that "fine tea is extinct ;" and few will contest the truth of the following :—

"What has caused this diminution of quality ? First, the competition among the merchants themselves.

"Shipments of fine Tea were never made in the Company's time till September. They are now made in June. Why? Because of the desire to secure the first arrivals of what is called "fine Tea," and hence, as the Chinese can do almost anything with the tea-plant—enabled thereto by a knowledge gained by two thousand years of experience and tradition—they pluck the tea before it is ripe, when the leaves are half the size they should be, and when the aroma and strength is in the root, rather than in the leaf. What care they about the quality? They sell the Tea, such as it is, mixed now *always* with old leaves, because the merchant pays a high price for it."

But, accepting this deterioration of the tea of the good old times as irreparable, however lamentable, its degeneracy is no excuse for the exportation of "lie" tea or "Maloo mixture" which has excited the wrath of the *Daily Telegraph*, and left its innocent and ignorant vendors at home at the mercy of Middlesex magistrates. Our author holds, it is true, that the journal exaggerates, as usual, the evil it exposes ; but he confirms the statement that the evil does exist. What he maintains is that the real evil-doer should be checked—*punish* John Chinaman we cannot—and here we arrive at the gist of his pamphlet :—how to stop the importation ? Thorough and careful inspection of the tea in bond, and rigid confiscation of all impure cargoes would effect it, of course, and this reform has been suggested to the home government, not only by the press, but by deputations of traders and philanthropists. But we almost agree with Ti Ping Koon in thinking this impracticable. There is undeniable truth in his remarks on the rumoured appointment of a staff of inspectors at the ports where Tea is bonded. He says :—

"There would be but little objection to this intended system, could it be practically worked ; but granting that, in many cases, samples would be properly condemned, there would be thousands of instances where the grounds of condemnation would be doubtful, and upon which the right of appeal would justly and equitably be claimed, while the delivery of every package of good and sound Tea would be delayed, as such could only be examined in their turn, impeded as they then would be by the inspection of that which was trashy and impure.

"These items of doubt and delay would be hardships which the merchants of London and Liverpool could not—indeed would not—bear. It now frequently happens that the "New Teas" are in the dealers' possession, and vended to the public, in less than twenty-four hours after the entry of the vessel into the dock, and the element of delay, which would be very great under a new system complex and difficult to work, would fall upon those who should not be saddled with it.

I condemn the intended new organization, therefore, at once, as inefficient and impracticable."

Still, in defence of the inspectorate system, it may be urged that, if the staff were large enough for the work, it would be a perfect safeguard against the evil. And it must not be forgotten that it is only the first arrivals of "new season's crop" which are sold so fast, and it remains to be proved that this rapidity of sale is necessary. The public might soon be taught to wait a reasonable time for the new teas, and when the first rush is over, holders of tea know, often to their cost, that there is plenty of time for the most leisurely inspection, before their consignments find a market. It would depend on the number and experience of the inspectors appointed whether this remedy prove "inefficient," and we should be highly gratified to hear that Ti Ping Koon had been appointed Chief Inspector for the port of London, where we believe he would find the proposed organization not so "impracticable" as he thinks it now.

The space at our command is not sufficient for other extracts from Ti Ping Koon's pamphlet, and we have been compelled, for the same reason, to abstain from discussing some portions of the question he raises, well worthy of consideration. But we cannot dismiss it without some comment on the remedy he would like to see applied. This he states, baldly, to be the re-imposition of the shilling duty. It is to be regretted that he has not argued out this point more fully. He says :—

"With a duty of 1s. per lb., it would not pay John Chinaman to concoct, ship, and attempt to sell Tea, so called, intrinsically worth less than 1s. It is the reduction of duty which has stimulated this fraudulent manufacture ; the total abolition of the duty, which is threatened, will give an enormous increase to it ; and the re-imposition of the duty would be an instant check to this infamous trade—would, ultimately, stop it altogether—a result which no other device could possibly achieve."

Now this appears to us disputable. It is perfectly true that "the reduction of duty has stimulated this fraudulent manufacture" and that the threatened total abolition would enormously increase it. But Ti Ping Koon admits (page 6) that in 1857-8, before the reduction of the duty to 6d. per lb., "Maloo mixture" was at all events manufactured in China, if not exported. And it does not seem to us a truth so clear as to require no argument to support it, that "with a duty of 1s. per lb., it would not pay John Chinaman to concoct, ship and attempt to sell tea, so called, intrinsically worth less than 1s." Is our pamphleteer prepared to maintain that if the additional 6d. was re-imposed, Mrs. Brown would not buy the same stuff she now gets for 1s. 9d., at 2s. 3d ? If she would, it would pay Ah Ping to sell it to her just as well as it pays him at present. The point is open to discussion by experts, and perhaps Ti Ping Koon may have meant to leave it so open. For ourselves, we think that if, in the first place, Mrs. Brown would test her tea as recommended, and change her grocer when the experiment proved the sample to be adulterated ; and if she would pay no attention to Messrs. Rushem and Crushem's many-coloured advertisements, calling on her to buy their "first new teas" ex steamer by Suez Canal ; but would give time to an efficient staff of tea inspectors to do their duty ;—she might get pure tea at a fair price. Or, if Messrs. Rushem and Crushem, when mulcted for selling "Maloo mixture," would sue their wholesale grocer for recovery of the fine ; if the wholesale grocer would go back on the tea-merchant, and the tea-merchant make it lively for his tea-taster ; then the object—stoppage of importation,—might be attained, as in the well-known case of the old woman whose pig wouldn't get over the stile. No increase of duty would be necessary, but Mrs. Brown would no longer be able to buy her "one-and-ninepenny mixed."

Here, it appears to us, lies the root of the trouble. Can Ti Ping Koon or Mr. Disraeli persuade Mrs. Brown to pay a fair price for a genuine article. "Peace at any price" and a "free breakfast table" are both parts and parcels of the "cheap and nasty" policy. A nation cannot hope to buy honour or respect with gold—they can only be bought with steel. Mrs. Brown can buy nothing better than Maloo mixture for one-and-ninepence. Judicious expenditure will give back to Britannia her proper position in Europe, and to Mrs. Brown a good cup of tea : are either prepared to pay the price required ?

REGULATIONS FOR THE BLANK CARDS FOR SILKWORM'S EGGS.

(TRANSLATION.)

1.—The blank cards for silkworm's eggs are all manufactured by this Department, and are distributed among the stations for their sale. No one must take it upon him to manufacture and sell them on his own authority.

STATIONS FOR SALE OF BLANK CARDS.

In Musashi.....Fukaya
IwashiroFukushima
ShinanoYeda.

2.—The mode of selling the cards is as follows. Every year between the 1st of April and 31st of May, the representatives of the cultivators in every district are to send in application for the entire number required in their several districts to the station for the sale of eggs, accompanied by a covering letter from the local government office. All the cards must be purchased between these dates.

3.—In purchasing the cards the number required every year is to be estimated, distinguishing the different kinds such as Annuals, Bivoltini, and Hybrids (?), compared with the number of licensed cultivators and sent in accompanied by an account of the number of cultivators.

Note.—For the cards used for annuals a charge is made of 200 *yen* per thousand ; for the thinner cards used for Bivoltini and others a charge of 60 *yen* per thousand is made. This charge must be paid at once.

4.—Any surplus cards which may be left after the season is over must not be transferred to others, but all those of the same district should be collected and sent back to the station for sale with an application for a refund of their value before the 15th of September in that year. The same forms should be observed as when cards are applied for at the beginning of the season. It is strictly forbidden to retain them for next year's use. Any one who breaks this rule will have his cards confiscated and be amerced in a fine of twice their value.

5.—Any breach of the rule forbidding the transfer of cards will be punished by a fine on both parties of fifty cents a card, no matter of what description.

6.—Any surplus cards which may have been inscribed with the cultivator's name and place of abode will be returned to him the following year after inspection. All such cards should be collected and sent with a register of their owners to the nearest station for the sale of cards according to the forms prescribed in rule 4, and application made that they may be taken charge of. The number of such cards is to be placed against the name of every applicant in the estimates for the following year, and in the case of those who intend to give up business, application should be made to the said station to repurchase them at a reasonable rate.

7.—For the first crop of Bivoltini which appears at the same time as the crop of annuals, the cards laid down in these regulations are not imperative. Any cards may be used.

8.—The informer against any one committing a breach of these regulations will receive one tenth of the value of all goods confiscated, and where no goods are confiscated one tenth of any fine which may be levied.

9.—In places where there is no cultivator's representative, the agent will act for him, and where there is neither, the Kocho will discharge these duties.

The above regulations have been duly ordained.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

February 1874.

MINUTES

OF

A MEETING OF THE AGENTS OF THE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF YOKOHAMA, HELD AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOMS, MARCH 18TH, 1874.

Present.—Messrs. Smith, Wilkin, Hurlbut, Macpherson, Schwabe, Brent, Farley, Ohl, Reddelien, Johnstone, Bissell, Abbott and Snethlage:

On behalf of the following Offices:

Guardian Assurance, Sun Fire, China Fire, Imperial, Phoenix, Manchester, Lancashire, Batavia Fire, Victoria Fire, Transatlantic London Assurance, North British and Mercantile, Scottish Commercial, Northern, Commercial Union Fire, London & Lancashire, Hamburg & Bremen, and North German.

Mr. A. J. Wilkin, being elected to the Chair, stated briefly his objects for having called the Meeting, viz: that the following suggestions had been made.

1st.—That the Agents of the various Insurance Companies of Yokohama form themselves into a Society for Mutual Assistance.

2nd.—That a standing Committee of three be appointed whose duty it shall be to generally watch the interests of the various Fire Offices, and to call together the Agents when desirable; such Committee to be appointed by ballot at a meeting to be held in January of each year, with power to fill vacancies in the interim.

3rd.—That this Committee shall appoint one of its number to be secretary or gerant.

4th.—That it shall be the special duty of the standing Committee after the occurrence of any and every fire in the settlement to cause an investigation of all circumstances connected therewith to be held, such investigation to be held either by a session of the standing Committee, or of three of the Agents to be nominated by the Committee, more immediately interested in the fire, such session of enquiry to write and collect all possible evidence, and record the same in writing. Any Agent shall be at liberty to be present at such enquiry, but only to take part therein, subject to the direction of the three

forming the special or standing Committee for the time being, and the records of the enquiry shall be open to the inspection of each of the Agents.

5th.—That the incidental expenses of advertising &c. shall be shared by the various Insurance companies.

6th.—That a copy of these Rules be given to each member of this Society.

7th.—That Resolution 4th have a retrospective effect, and that a regular enquiry into the circumstances of the fire of the 12th instant be at once commenced.

After the lapse of several minutes the Chairman suggested that these various propositions before the meeting should be dealt with separately, whereupon Mr. Macpherson proposed, and Mr. Brent seconded, that No. 1 of the resolutions be passed. Carried.

Mr. Macpherson proposed No. 2, seconded by Mr. Johnstone. Carried.

Mr. Macpherson proposed No. 3 and suggested that the following amendment be made. "That this Committee have power to appoint an unpaid Secretary." Carried.

Mr. Macpherson likewise proposed Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, which were equally approved of, and carried by the meeting unanimously.

The Chairman then stated that as these propositions had met with the general approval of those present, the next business to be done was to ballot for a Committee, which on being taken, resulted in the Agents of the Sun, Imperial and Phoenix being elected.

Mr. Hurlbut then addressed the meeting, and stated he had a very urgent case to bring before them. Some time back the head coolie of his Brigade had been seriously injured at a fire, but at the fire on the night of the 12th instant, the unfortunate man had met with such injuries as ultimately resulted in his death; he has worked for several years with the American Brigade, and has proved himself to be a most useful and valuable assistant, he leaves a wife and two children quite unprovided for; a subscription has already been started on their behalf, and he trusted the Companies then present would assist him in raising the amount to \$150 which he considered would be ample to support them. After a short deliberation it was agreed that the sum should be raised by private subscription, and placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Fire Brigade who would provide for their maintenance as far as the funds in his hands would permit.

The Chairman next read a long letter addressed to the Agents of the various Fire Companies by Mr. Hohnholz which enumerated a variety of services he had rendered while in command of the Private Fire, Hook and Ladder Brigade. The gist of his correspondence was to point out to the meeting that at the fire on the night of the 12th instant, and on previous occasions, he had been the means of saving much valuable property. On the fire of the 12th inst., he more especially dwells and remarks that he is credited to some extent, as having saved several of the adjacent buildings with his engine.

He is a loser by this fire to the extent of \$2,700, and was uninsured. In laying these remarks before the meeting Mr. Hohnholz trusts that (in consideration of these valuable services) the agents will to some extent compensate him for the heavy loss he has sustained.

After much discussion upon the subject, the Chairman collected the following views from those present:—

That much as they regretted Mr. Hohnholz's loss at the late fire, they did not consider themselves in a position to grant him any compensation; for his valuable services at all fires, they tendered him their best thanks, at the same time remarking, that the Brigade under his superintendence was one that was supported by subscription, and not as might be supposed, an entirely private Brigade, while, further, the case was scarcely one in which Mr. Hohnholz had lost his own property through his endeavour to protect other property.

The Chairman then read a letter from Messrs. Cheshire & Co. suggesting the formation of a salvage corps, and in the event of their starting one, enquiring if the Fire Companies would recognize them, and what percentage would the Companies allow them. After many suggestions it was proposed that the letter should be handed to the Fire Brigade Committee, for them to reply to, as the formation of a salvage corps had already been spoken of in conjunction with the Yokohama Fire Brigade.

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The Chairman stated that he had been requested to speak to those present, on the desirability at large fires of blowing up houses in the vicinity of the conflagration, in order to prevent the spread of the flames. In the fire of 1866 several houses were so dealt with. Several of the agents stated that this means of preventing the spread of a fire was not favourably accepted by the offices at home, as it generally did more harm than good; besides, there was always a great difficulty in finding anyone who would undertake the responsibility of blowing up houses. The remarks did not receive a favourable support, as those present considered nothing could be done, unless a Municipal Council were formed, and the necessary power granted to deal with such matters.

A long discussion here ensued about the water supply.

Mr. Macpherson suggested it should be brought from the native town, as he was given to understand that there was always a plentiful supply to be obtained there, and that it was only a matter of having connected pipes between the foreign and native settlements to insure us at any emergency a large supply of water. Mr. Hurlbut stated he had already given orders for a new well to be constructed between Lot 75 and 76, Main Street, but owing to the limited amount of funds in hand he was afraid that not more than two of these necessary provisions could so far be proceeded with, as they would cost about \$500 each, and he feared that the bringing of water pipes into the Settlement would be far beyond their means.

The Chairman thought a stationary engine at the top of Water Street on the Creek would be extremely useful.

Several other remarks of a similar nature were made, when the Chairman suggested that the Fire Committee be requested to consult with the Fire Brigade Committee, in order to take into consideration the best means for providing the settlement at all times with an ample supply of water.

The meeting here terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

EDGAR ABBOTT,
Secretary pro. tem.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL."

Yokohama, 16th March, 1874.

SIR,—Allow me to express the gratification I feel, to learn, by the note appended, that you do not endorse the views advanced by the writer in his ninth article on "Education in Japan." I have no disposition, nor shall I attempt any discussion of the points where your opinion, and my own, differ from those expressed by that gentleman; but I feel constrained to give some expression to the sincere regret felt not only by myself, but others of his countrymen in this place, that he should have put forth in this heathen land, as his carefully formed, and deliberate opinion, the desire, and advice, that the teaching of Christianity should be strictly excluded from all the educational institutions of the country; and that even incidental allusions to it in the text books of the schools are pernicious. Should he deprecate the dogmatical teaching of *sectarianism*, I would join him heart and hand; but when he tells a people, who for so many ages have been in possession of the most perfect system of pure morality that the world has ever produced, and who have yet proved in their own experience, that without the vitalizing power of Christianity it only "worketh death"—that he "looks with unqualified admiration upon the framers of the constitution of the United States, who would have no acknowledgement of religion, or even the name of God" in it:—and that he "delights to pay his tribute of praise to the British Government for giving to India a system of public schools, in which all religious teaching is strictly forbidden," —I feel it only right to tell these people also some things that he withholds; viz, that the omission to which he alludes in the constitution of his own country, was not the result of enlightened Christian, or even moral, convictions, but arose from the very natural impulses, that under the circumstances and the peculiarity of the case, prompted to the most extreme measures for the separation of Church and State, and was mainly owing to the atheistical views of some of the framers of that

instrument. And it is to the credit of the American people that the public sentiment is against such omission; that earnest and persistent efforts have been made to rectify such a grave mistake; and that some amends have been made by stamping on the later coins of the country the words "IN GOD WE TRUST."

It is justice also to England, to have the Japanese know, that in regard to the prohibition against all religious teachings in the English schools in India, it is a fact boldly and distinctly asserted by England's own subjects, that by this course she is doing far more to convert that country into a nation of educated infidels, than to propagate either religion or morality.

The God we worship has declared, "I will be exalted among the heathen," and he has promised "They that honour me, I will honour," and surely it is not exalting him, and his promise cannot be fulfilled to those who would teach any system that fails to recognize, and acknowledge HIM as the author of all that is pure and true, and elevating.

AN AMERICAN.

[We are fully persuaded that the contributor of the valuable articles on Education in Japan which have appeared in this journal, entertains no question whatever in regard to the value of religious instruction, but, in common with many other earnest and excellent men, he thinks that the machinery for providing it should not be organized or directed by the State.—ED. J.W.M.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL."

Yokohama, 20th March, 1874.

SIR,—Can you inform me how it happens that when a godown in this settlement is attacked by fire, a cry is often raised and industriously circulated that it contains large quantities of powder and loaded shell? I cannot conceive that such stores are commonly housed in godowns in Yokohama, but I know from experience that efforts to extinguish fires are paralysed by these reports, and it strikes me as very remarkable that they should be circulated when the event proves that they have not the smallest foundation.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant.

A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL."

SIR,—It is not to be wondered at that those who write of the fire of Thursday night should comment upon features so apparent as the want of water, and what is called the want of organization.

It is not my purpose to deny the truth of the remarks in your issue of yesterday,—albeit I am of opinion that, had you been behind the scenes, you might have somewhat modified your strictures,—but rather to promote the consideration of radical measures adapted to place Yokohama in a better position in all such matters.

The burden of keeping the Fire Brigade going, in council and in the field, rests upon a few. These few, on Thursday night, were, be it observed, to be found working in wind and water, flame and smoke, where a salamander might have been content, and at their posts when the dilettanti who can so freely counsel had all turned in for the night. But this settlement has now attained such dimensions that, in the nature of things, a volunteer organization is obviously inadequate to the exigencies of night work of this kind. We want a paid skilled staff, whose business it shall be to work the Brigade, under the control of these gentlemen who now take an interest in it. The question is, who is to furnish this paid staff?

Again, we want a water supply: of course we do. But how is this water supply to be attained by the funds at the command of the Brigade?

These are questions which beset the minds of those who take the burden of the executive, and a practical suggestion or two would be very welcome.

There is a way out of these difficulties, but that way involves a fundamental municipal change, and such a change would be the basis of many advantages. The cry for power

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of local self-government has been somewhat appeased of late years by such improvement as the macadamizing of the roads; but such circumstances as those we are now considering constitute an urgent appeal for power to protect and help ourselves, and this change would give us the radical measures to which I made reference at the outset.

But, pending such a radical change, we are, I think, entitled to more efficient help from the native Municipal government. Where, I would ask, were the native police on Thursday night? Why cannot they on these occasions keep off the throngs of Japanese who block up all the approaches and loot the salvage unmercifully?

And, I would like to ask, who is responsible for having left the sluice of the Homura tidal ditch open last Thursday night? Is it the native Municipal authorities?

Had this sluice been found shut when the Victoria Steam Fire-engine reached the Homura road, it is possible that the fire might have been stayed at the first party wall in Bank Buildings, and \$50,000 to \$100,000 worth of property been saved. As it was, no little time was lost by having to move the engine to the Western Hatoba, and when there it had to work, so low was the tide, with its suction hose ever and anon exposed by the fall of the waves to the ingress of air, and finally this cause temporarily disabled it.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[We shall only work gradually through our present disorganized condition, to the results towards which our correspondent points, by drawing attention to that condition. It is no use complaining of this one day, and then getting a cold fit of penitence. The people who helped at the fire on Thursday did so bravely and well, as we said they did, and as they always have done. But do not let us on this account ignore the fact that we are badly provided against fires, and that with better organization we should be far better provided. We were among many critics who regretted their enforced inaction. But intrusion at such a moment among those who were at work would have been folly.—ED. J.M.D.A.]

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

March 15, *Bombay*, British steamer. Davies, 1,325, from Hongkong. March 8th, Mails and General, to P & O. Co.

March 15, *Vasco de Gama*, British steamer. Rice, 1,931, from San Francisco, February 21st, General, to Hudson, Malcolm & Co.

March 15, *Amaide*, German barque, Brinkmeier, 371, from Hakodate, March 7th, Ice, to J. Haber & Co.

March 15, *Merce*, British barque. Robinson, 628, from London, October 14th, General, to Van Oordt & Co.

Mar. 19, *New York*, American steamer, 2119, Furber, General, from Hakodate, to P. M. S. S. Co.

Mar. 20. *Sarah Scott*, British barque, 565, Endall, from Cardiff, October 17th, Coal, to P. & O. Co.

Mar. 20, *Mistletoe*, British barque, 268, Pyne, from Nagasaki, March 5th, Coal, to Hudson, Malcolm & Co.

Mar. 21, *Diamant*, German barque, Ackermann, 256, from Hamburg, September 25th, General, to Simon, Evers & Co.

DEPARTURES.

PASSENGERS.

Per American steamer *Costa Rica*, for Hiogo:—W. Bramen, 3 Japanese, C. Rohde, and 56 in the steerage. For Nagasaki:—Dr. Fisher, Col. Chambers, D. G. Scofield, and 37 in the steerage. For Shanghai:—R. P. Maynard, Mr. Wadley, Dr. Jones, H. J. Keels, Bishop Williams, and 15 Chinese in the steerage.

Per British steamer *Bombay*, from Hongkong.—Messrs. Cope, Yates, Clayton, Marks, Wool, Dowson, Westphael, Bromley, Murton, Stiles, Penrudd, Hall and Ginsburg.

At 11 a.m. exchanged signals with a tea, sugar, tobacco, &c., and on his finding that he could get nothing more, he spoke to his men and they took away nearly everything that they pretended came as a present to the captain. The King then shook hands with the captain, bade him good day, got into his boat or state barge, mounted his throne (a sort of stage rigged up) and went away on shore. So much for a royal visit. The latter part of this day, strong N. Easterly winds, squalls and showers. At noon the 8th, Syand Island bore N.E. distant about 2 miles. Sounded ground in 7 fathoms. At 11 a.m. on the 10th exchanged signals with a

er British steamer *Vasco de Gama*, from San Francisco.—Messrs. Spencer, Comstock, Lang, and M'Lure, and 23 Chinese in the steerage. Per British steamer *Vasco de Gama*, for Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Hudson

For French steamer *Vulcain*, for Pointe de Galle.—Dumortier.
For Marseilles—Messrs. A. Garcin, F. W. White, Henderson,
Babut, M^{es}rs. C. Vielfaure, L. Maurier, A. Valleut, Messrs. Geo. B.
Berriek, and Boulle.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Volga*:-

Silk... 489 bales.
Waste Silk 28 "

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Bombay* reports: Strong head winds and thick foggy weather through the Formosa Channel. Passed the P. M. S. Co.'s steamer, standing to the westward, at 3 a.m. this morning.

The British steamer *Vasco de Gama* reports: Experienced strong head winds, squally weather, and heavy sea during the run.

The British barque *Merse* reports: After leaving London, October 14th, had light variable winds till off the Isle of Wight. On the 21st, when heavy weather came on, ship labouring much and shipping large quantities of water, were obliged to put back under the island for shelter. Sailed again on the 23rd, with light, favourable winds and fine weather. Sighted Cape de Verde islands November 14th, and crossed the Equator on the 29th in 28 deg. N.; experienced a very strong current setting to the westward for some days. Saw Tristan d'Aununa on the 17th December, thence experienced strong westerly and N. W. gales to the Cape on the 24th December. After passing the Cape had strong winds from W. S. W. with a heavy sea running; January 12th, the sea smashed in portion of starboard bulwark, broke in forecastle doors and flooded everything, washing the watch out of their berths; wind moderating afterwards, came through the Ombay passage, sighting Sandalwood Island on the 30th January, thence had light winds into port—150 days from London.

The British barque *Mistletoe* reports stormy weather and very changeable winds during the passage.

Report of the British barque *Sarah Scott*, of Sunderland:—Towed out of the East Bute Dock, Cardiff, at 4 p.m. on the 17th of October, 1873, with light variable winds, calms and drizzling rains. At 7 40 p.m. discharged the steam tug, the *Nash light*, bearing N.N.E., distant about 8 miles; had then light, variable winds from the westward, with drizzling rains. At 9.45 a.m. on the 18th, discharged the Channel pilot, Ilfracombe bearing S.S.W., distant about 6 miles, light breeze from the N. Westward; 5 p.m. wind N.N.E. moderate and cloudy; 7.00 p.m. Sunda Island light bore S.S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.; midnight, fresh and cloudy. The 19th, 10 a.m., wind N.N.W., veering through the course of the day to N.W., West, and W.S.W., blowing hard gales, ship under lower topsails and fore sail and fore-topmasts staysail. This weather continued up to 4.30 a.m. on the 20th, when the wind suddenly shifted from the North, in a heavy squall with much rain. From this time had a continuance of westerly winds with squalls and rains until we arrived in Lat. $36^{\circ} 20' N.$ and Long. $13^{\circ} 30' W.$ Sighted Cape Finisterre on the 24th and got the North East Trades in the last named latitude and longitude on the 27th. Sighted the S.W. point of Madeira, bearing E.S.E., at noon on the 29th. At noon on the 5th November, St. Antonie (Cape Verde) bore S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., distant about 15 miles; here we lost the Trade wind and got south easterly winds until the evening of the 9th, in Lat. $8^{\circ} N.$ Long. $21.20 W.$; here we got variable winds, squalls and calms. Crossed the Equator in Long. $27^{\circ} 10' W.$ at about 11.15 p.m. on the 14th, just 28 days 7 hours from Cardiff. Had variable winds nearly all through the S.E. Trades, until we arrived in Lat. $28^{\circ} S.$, Long. $32^{\circ} W.$, where we got the winds from N.E. North, and N.W. December 6th, at 4 p.m., saw the Peak of Tristan D'Acunha, bearing N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., Nightingale Island N. E., distant about 7 miles. After passing these islands had a continuance of easterly winds with thick foggy weather for several days. Crossed

of easterly winds with thick foggy weather for several days. Crossed the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope on the 19th, in Lat. 42.20 south. January 4th, 1874, at 7 a.m., the south point of St. Paul's Island bore N.N.W., distant $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Had variable winds and weather all the way down from the meridian of the Cape. At noon on the 24th January, Fly Island bore W. by N., and Cape Blackwood (on Sandalwood Island) N. by E. On 26th and 27th passed through the Omboyo channel, and after this had the winds down from the N. Eastward. On 31st, rounded Cape Palpetto (Boero Island). February 4th, passed between the Lawn and Pisang Islands. The 6th, weathered Gagy Island. The 7th, passed to windward of Geby Island. At about 9.45 a.m., while the ship was lying becalmed, His Majesty the King of Geby came on board to inquire after the health of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and royal family. He brought on board with him some fruits, birds, shells, &c., &c., as a present for the captain, but at the same time requested to be supplied with cigars, spirits, beer, tobacco, coffee, sugar, tea, guns, gunpowder, sails for his boat, a compass to steer by, and other articles too numerous to mention. After supplying him with a quantity of coffee, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c., and on his finding that he could get nothing more, he spoke to his men and they took away nearly everything that they pretended came as a present to the captain. The King then shook hands with the captain, bade him good day, got into his boat or state barge, mounted his throne (a sort of stage rigged up) and went away on shore. So much for a royal visit. The latter part of this day, strong N. Easterly winds, squalls and showers. At noon the 8th, Syand Island bore N.E. distant about 2 miles. Sounded ground in $7\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. At 11 a.m. on the 10th exchanged signals with a

North-German barque, his distinguishing signals being *Q. S. H. T.*, bound from Hamburg to Japan, sailed from Hamburg 25th September, 1873, all well on board. At noon the 11th, Wayamole Head (Gilio Island), bore S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., and Salamay Head W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.; found the current setting very strong to the south-westward. During the whole of February had nothing but light variable winds from the N. Eastward, with squalls, calms, and much rain. On 10th March crossed the Tropic of Cancer, were we had light variable winds from the southward, with very fine weather for five days. After this, had strong winds from south, veering round by the west to north, attended with much rain and squalls. At daylight on the 18th saw Mount Fusiyama, bearing N.N.E. At 1.30 p.m. Rock Island bore North $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. At 2.20 p.m. got a Yokohama pilot on board. At 5 p.m. light variable winds and calms. A.m., 19th, light variable winds from the N. Eastward. P.m. light south westerly winds. At 6.30 p.m. anchored in Yokohama bay, having been 153 days on the passage.

The German barque *Diamant* reports: Experienced fine weather during most of the voyage. In the Bay of Biscay met with some stormy weather and a heavy sea, and also for a short time off the Cape. Came up through the Gillooloo passage. For 40 days in the Pacific had nothing but light winds and calm.

MERCHANT SHIPPING IN PORT.

STEAMERS.		Destination.	
Bombay	...	Davies	Hongkong
Menzaleh	...	Mourrut	Hongkong
Naruto	...	DuBois	Uncertain
New York	...	Furber	Shanghai & ports
Oregonian	...	Harris	Uncertain
SAILING SHIPS.			
Amaide	...	371 Brinkmeier	Uncertain
Ada Iredale	...	997 Napton	Uncertain
Diamant	...	256 Ackermann	Uncertain
Elizabeth Nicholson	...	906 Webster	Uncertain
Merce	...	628 Robinson	Uncertain
Mistletoe	...	268 Pyne	Uncertain
Sarah Scott	...	565 Estall	Uncertain

VESSELS OF WAR IN HARBOUR.

H. M.'s gun-boat...	Thistle	Captain H. Leet.
American gun-boat	Saco	Captain McDougal
French gun-boat	Bourayne	Capt. Bosc

VESSELS EXPECTED.

S A I L E D .

FOR CHINA PORTS WITH GOODS FOR JAPAN.

FROM LONDON, via SHANGHAI.—"Cawdor Castle," str.
FROM LIVERPOOL.—"Hector" str.
FOR JAPAN DIRECT.
FROM LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA.—"YOKOHAMA AND HIODO."—"Harrington,"
"Scawfell,"
FROM LONDON, FOR NAGASAKI AND HIODO.—
FROM LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIODO.—"Eme."
FROM HAMBURG.—"Diamant."
FROM NEWPORT.—
FROM CARDIFF.—"Westminster."
FROM HONGKONG.—

FROM BREMEN.—"Humboldt" str.

AT LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA.—

AT LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIODO.—"Chusan."

AT LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA, HIODO AND NAGASAKI.—

AT LONDON, FOR HIODO.—

AT LONDON, FOR HIODO AND NAGASAKI.—

L O A D I N G .

FOR CHINA PORTS, WITH GOODS FOR JAPAN.

AT LONDON.—"Crocus" str.

AT LIVERPOOL.—"Agamemnon" str.

AT GLASGOW.—

FOR JAPAN DIRECT.

AT LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIODO.—"Mary Ann Wilson,"

"F. C. Clarke."

THE "JAPAN MAIL."

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AGENTS OF THE PAPER.

LONDON	G. Street, 30, Cornhill.
"	Bates, Hendy & Co., 4, Old Jewry.
NEW YORK	A. Wind, 130, Nassau Street.
HONGKONG	.....	Lane, Crawford & Co.
SHANGHAI	.....	Kelly & Co.
HIODO & OZAKA	.....	F. Walsh & Co.
NAGASAKI	.....	China & Japan Trading Co.

Who are authorized to receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for these Papers.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of MR. STEPHEN BRUSH, Jr., in our firm ceased on the 20th instant.

HOWARD CHURCH & Co.

Yokohama, February 24, 1874.

1m.

NOTICE.

OUR firm has this day entered into Liquidation.

REIS, VON DER HEYDE & Co.

Yokohama, March 17, 1874.

1w.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

LATITUDE. $35^{\circ} 25' 41''$ North.

LONGITUDE. $139^{\circ} 39' 0''$ East.

Day of Week.	Day of Month.	OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 9 A.M. LOCAL TIME.														
		Barometer.	Attached Thermometer.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Dew Point.	Hygrometer.	Wind.	Cloud.	Max. in air.	Min. in air.					
Saturday	Mar. 14	30.28	54.5	42.0	37.0	36.3	.214	.809	N.	.05	2	43.0	32.0	37.5	.00	4
Sunday	" 15	30.18	54.0	45.0	44.5	44.0	.288	.962	N. E.	.05	9	48.5	39.0	43.7	.00	2
Monday	" 16	19.77	64.5	53.0	42.0	51.2	.377	.971	calm	.00	10	58.0	44.0	51.0	.19	2
Tuesday	" 17	29.56	59.0	46.5	40.0	31.9	.180	.581	N. W.	.88	8	59.0	44.0	50.0	1.75	6
Wednesday	" 18	30.04	55.0	41.0	38.0	33.9	.195	.758	W.	.00	1	47.5	29.0	38.2	snow	5
Thursday	" 19	30.34	52.0	45.5	41.0	35.1	.204	.671	N. N. W.	.15	1	49.5	31.0	40.2	.00	2
Friday	" 20	30.33	54.0	43.0	40.5	37.4	.223	.806	calm	.00	10	52.0	30.0	41.0	.00	2
Mean	...	30.06	56.0	45.0	41.8	38.5	.263	.794		.16	5	50.6	35.5	43.0	.27	3

J. H. SANDWITH,—Lieut.,
Lieut.

R. M.

CAMP, Yokohama, March, 20th, 1874.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

YOKOHAMA, MARCH 21ST, 1874.

During the present week we have had the following mail arrivals and departure. Arrivals:—March 15th, P. & O. str. *Bombay*, from Hongkong and Europe, same day C. T. P. str. *Vasco de Gama*, from San Francisco.

Departure:—March 18th, M. M. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong and Europe.

The sailing vessels *Merse*, from London, and *Diamant*, from Hamburg, with general cargoes, and the *Saraf Scott* from Cardiff with Coal, have also arrived.

During the last week there has been a generally better feeling in imports, but prices offered are still far from satisfactory as compared with home rates.

Shirtings, though in a little better enquiry, remain very depressed. For *Velvets* there is more demand.

Cotton Yarn.—There has been a large business in No. 16 to 24, and we raise our quotations. The low price of No. 28 to 32 has attracted some attention and speculative purchases have been made.

Woollens.—The demand for Plain Black Orleans mentioned in our last has been sustained, and there has further been some enquiry for Camlets and Camlet Cords at quotations.

Mousselines.—Are again quieter, the brisk speculative demand which set in last week having subsided; yet the position of the staple may be considered as sound and a revival of demand near at hand.

Iron and Metals.—The general tendency is very weak, and it is difficult to give reliable quotations for any size, as there is no demand.

Sugar.—Formosa kinds have been in fair enquiry during the past week, but in the absence of stocks in first hands, no transactions have taken place. Prices, however, are decidedly firmer, and for best quality in bags \$4.15 is obtainable. In other kinds there has been little doing, and prices are unchanged.

QUOTATIONS FOR ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

GOODS.	PRICES.	GOODS.	PRICES.
Cotton Piece Goods.			
Grey Shirtings:—			
7 lbs. 88½ yds. 39 in. per pce.	\$2.15 to \$2.20	Sateens (Cotton) "	0.15 to 0.17
8 " " 44 " 45 in. "	2.52 to 2.57½	Alpacas 42 yds. 31 in. " "	6.50 to 8.60
8 lbs. 4 to 8 lbs. 6 ditto 39 in. "	2.45 to 2.55	Camlet Cords 30 yds. 31 in. " "	6.00 to 7.25
9 lbs. " " 44 in. "	2.85 to 3.00	Mousseline de laine, (plain) 30 to 31 in pryd. ditto (printed) " "	0.15 to 0.20 0.26 to 0.35
White Shirtings:—		Cloth, Medium & Broad 54 in to 64 in " "	neglected.
56 to 60 reed 40 yds. 35 in. nominal "	2.45 to 2.60	ditto Union 54 in to 56 in " "	
64 to 72 " ditto " "	2.75 to 2.90	Blankets " " limited enquiry per lb. 0.36 to 0.40	
T. Cloth:—6 lbs. " " "	1.50 to 1.60		
7 " " " "	1.75 to 1.85		
Drills, English—15 lbs. " " "	3.15 to 3.25		
Handkerchiefs Assorted " " per doz.	0.45 to 0.80		
Brocades & Spots (White) " " per pce.	nominal.		
ditto (Dyed) " " "			
Chintz (Assorted) 24 yds. 30 in. "	1.50 to 1.75	Iron flat and round " " " per pel 4.00 to 5.00	
Turkey Reds 24 yds. 30 in. " " per lb	0.85 to 0.98	" nail rod " " " "	4.40 to 5.50
Velvets (Black) 35 yds. 22 in. per pce.	8.50 to 9.50	" hoop " " " nominal " "	5.00 to 5.10
Victoria Lawns 12 yds. 42 in. " "	0.90 to 1.00	" sheet " " " " "	
Taffachelass single weft 12 yds 43 in. "	2.40 to 2.60	" wire " " " " "	
ditto (double weft) " "	2.70 to 2.90	" pig " " " " "	
WOOLLENS.—Continued.			
		Lead " " " " "	Nominal.
		Tin Plates " " " " per box. 8.70	
		SUGAR.—Formosa in Bag " " " per picul. 4.00 to 4.07½	
		in Basket " " " " " 3.70 to 3.75	
		China No. 1 Pin-fah " " " " " 8.50 to 8.60	
		do. No. 2 Chi-g-pak " " " " " 7.70 to 8.00	
		do. No. 3 Ke-pak " " " " " 7.30 to 7.50	
		do. No. 4 Ko-k-fah " " " " " 6.80 to 7.10	
		do. No. 5 Kong-fuw " " " " " 6.10 to 6.60	
		do. No. 6 E-pak " " " " " 5.40 to 5.70	
		Swatow " " " " " 8.50 to 8.70	
		Daitoong " " " " " 8.50 to 8.75	
		Sugar Candy " " " " " 10.00 to 11.25	
		Raw Cotton (Shanghai new) " " " " " 13.25 to 18.50	
		Rice " " " " " 2.55	

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(Continued.)

Silk.—A large business has been done during the past week, and settlements since the 7th instant may be estimated (much remaining yet to be inspected) at 600 bales of Hanks and 300 bales of Oshiu.

Arrivals during the fortnight have been only 175 bales, and the stock is considerably impoverished both in quantity and in quality.

Prices have advanced \$20 to \$30 on last quotations.

Tea.—An extensive business has been done in Tea during past week considering the late period in the seasons, but there is little or no feature of interest to comment on.

Settlements for the week amount to some piculs 1,600, most of which consist of Medium and Good Medium classes; these shew no alteration in quotations on last week's figures, but as stocks in first hands are very limited further requisitions in these grades can only be obtained at an advance, unless decidedly worse reports come from the United States.

Some piculs 600 of low grade Teas at prices ranging from \$12 to \$20 are included in above total; these latter are remarkably common both in leaf and liquor. Prices remain as last week.

We can write nothing definite about the probable prospects of coming crop; the weather has been rather unsettled recently, but no harm may have yet done by frost or cold to the young leaf. Japanese dealers state that the market will open high, and this, we fear, will be verified unless buyers are decidedly checked by instructions from home.

EXPORTS.

GOODS.		PRICES.	LAID DOWN AND SOLD IN LONDON. Ex. 6mos. at 4s. 4d.	LAID DOWN AND SOLD IN LYONS. Ex. at 5.51 @ 6 mos.
Silk: —		per picul		
HANKS.	Maëbashi and Shinshiu	Extra none. ... Best ... Good ... Medium ... Inferior ...	nominal. \$610.00 to \$640.00 .. \$580.00 to \$600.00 .. \$500.00 to \$550.00 ..	28s. 7d. to 24s. 8d. 22s. 6d. to 23s. 3d. 19s. 7d. to 21s. 5d.
Oshiu	Extra ... " Best ... " Good ... " Medium ... " Inferior ...	nominal. \$600.00 to \$650.00 .. \$50.00 to \$580.00 .. \$520.00 to \$580.00 ..	23s. 3d. to 25s. 0d. 20s. 4d. to 22s. 6d. 20s. 4d. to 22s. 6d.	frs. 66 to frs. 69 frs. 62 to frs. 65 frs. 54 to frs. 60
HAMATSUKI	Inferior to Best ...	...	\$420.00 to \$460.00 ..	16s. 9d. to 18s. 2d.
SODAI	Medium ...	...	\$440.00 to \$480.00 ..	17s. 5d. to 18s. 11d.
Tea: —				
Common	...	...	\$18.00 to 24.00 ..	
Good Common	...	...	26.00 to 30.00 ..	
Medium	...	...	31.00 to 34.00 ..	
Good Medium	...	...	36.00 to 38.00 ..	
Fine	...	...	41.00 to 44.00 ..	
Finest	...	...	45.00 to 50.00 ..	
Choice	...	...	nominal.	
Choicest	,,	...	"	
Sundries: —				
Mushrooms	...	...	\$36.00 to 43.00 ..	
Isinglass	...	...	\$30.00 to 35.00 ..	
Sharks' Fins	...	...	\$17.00 to 40.00 ..	
White Wax	...	...	\$13.00 to 15.00 ..	
Bees Do.	...	...	\$40.00 to 50.00 ..	
Cuttle fish	...	...	\$10.75 to 11.50 ..	
Dried Shrimps	...	...	None.	
Seaweed	...	...	\$ 1.00 to 3 20 ..	
Gallnut	...	...	None.	
Tobacco	...	...	\$ 6.50 to 12.00 ..	

EXCHANGE AND BULLION.

Exchange.—Rates throughout the week have remained steady, but for Sterling close $\frac{1}{2}$ higher.

Rates close as follows:—

On London, Bank, 6 Months' Sight.....
" " Bank Bills on demand

,, " Credits.....
,, Paris, Bank Bills.....
,, " Private.....
,, Shanghai Bank Bills on demand..... 73
Private Bills 10 days sight 78 $\frac{1}{2}$

On Hongkong Bank Bills on demand $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent discount.
Private Bills 10 ds. sight 1 ..
,, San Francisco Bank Bills on demand 103 ..
30 days' sight Private.... 104
,, New York Bank Bills on demand... 108
30d. s. Private..... 104
Gold Yen..... 418 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kinsats 414

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MISCELLANEOUS.

MESSRS. BOURNE & CO.

WILL SELL BY

PUBLIC AUCTION,
At their Rooms, No. 70,
MAIN STREET,

(Unless Previously Disposed of by Private
Contract.)

IN MAY NEXT.

ALL that very VALUABLE and DESIRABLE PROPERTY, known as 24A., Water Street, containing 518 Tsuboos as per Japanese Title and with the Buildings thereon consisting of a TWO STORIED DWELLING HOUSE with OUTHOUSES and STABLES.

Also,

The OFFICE and STONE GODOWN, both of which are TWO STORIED, the size of the latter is 90 feet by 40 feet or equal to 100 Tsuboos. All the Buildings have been recently examined and found in thorough repair and sound condition.

The Ground Rent is paid up to 31st January, 1874.

The Property can be viewed and full particulars obtained by applying on the Premises or to the

AUCTIONEERS.

Yokohama, March 10, 1874.

NOTICE.

FROM and after this date Mr. FERDINAND ANGUS THIEL is authorized to sign our firm, per procura-
tion.

HOWARD CHURCH & Co.

Yokohama, March 16, 1874. d. 1m. & w. 4ins.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. COLGATE BAKER and Mr. HOFFMAN ATKINSON in our firm ceased on 31st December, 1873.

SMITH, BAKER & Co.

Yokohama, January 31, 1874. d. & w. F. 14. tf.

NOTICE.

MR. E. H. HUNTER ceases to sign my Name and Firm per procura-
tion from this date.

E. C. KIRBY.

Yokohama, March 2, 1874. 1m.

NOTICE.

I have this day established myself at this Port as Merchant and General Commission Agent under the style and Firm of E. H. HUNTER & Co.

E. H. HUNTER.

Yokohama, March 3, 1874. 1m.

NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED is prepared to attend to the Landing, Clearing, or Shipping of Cargo from this Port, at Reasonable Rates.

CAPT. D. SCOTT.

No. 44.

Yokohama, August 3, 1872. tf

MISCELLANEOUS.

NOTICE.

MR. JAMES C. FRASER is admitted a Partner in our Firm from this date.

SAUNDERS, NEEDHAM & Co.

Liverpool, January 1, 1874.

MR. JAMES C. FRASER having become a Partner in the Firm of Messrs. SAUNDERS, NEEDHAM & Co., of Liverpool his interest in the Firm of JAMES C. FRASER & Co., is now represented by Messrs. SAUNDERS, NEEDHAM & Co.

(Signed) JAMES C. FRASER.
JAMES P. MOLLISON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1874.

WE have this day admitted Mr. EVAN J. FRAZER to be a Partner in our Firm.

JAMES C. FRASER & Co.

Yokohama, January 1, 1874. F. 28.—d1w-w2m.

GEORGE FLETCHER & Co.,

BETTS STREET, ST. GEORGE'S EAST, LONDON,

AND

MASSON WORKS, DERBY.

Established over Thirty years as

MAKERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF MACHINERY FOR SUGAR PLANTATIONS AND REFINERIES, and well known all over the world.

Also the ORIGINAL PATENTEEs of the MULTITUBULAR BOILERS FOR THE COPPER WALL.

Multitubular and other Steam Boilers.	Cattle Pumps.
Condensing and High Pressure Steam Engines.	Vacuum Pans with all their accessories.
Donkey Engines.	Centrifugal Sugar Machine.
Distillery Engines.	All kinds of Apparatus for reburning Animal Charcoal.
Air-pump Engines.	Copper Rum Still for steam or fire.
Wrought Iron Waterwheels.	Light Rails, Axles, and Wheels for Megass.
Horizontal and Vertical Sugar Mills of every description, with suitable gearing.	Dippers and Cranes.
Cane-juice Pumps.	Improved Feed Injectors (Fletcher's).
Tubular and other steam Clarifiers.	Cane Punts.
Sugar Pans, Coolers, &c.	Draining Machinery, with scoop wheels or centrifugal pumps.
Granulating Pans of every description.	Cast and Wrought Iron Tanks.
Also small Plants (clarifiers and Sugar Boilers extra) to make 2½ tons per day of 12 hours, for £770.	tt.

Yokohama, March 21, 1874.

Yokohama, March 21, 1874.

BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES & Co.,

LANE STREET, COLOMNDON,

EXPORT DRUGGISTS,

MANUFACTURERS of every description of CHEMICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, and other PREPARATIONS. OIL PRESSERS, DISTILLERS OF ESSENTIAL OILS, DEALERS in Patent Medicines, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS and Appliances, Glass Ware, Confectionery, Medical Books, and Shop Fittings, and every description of Druggists' Sundries, Paints, Colours, Dyes, &c., &c.

Upon application, Messrs. BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES & Co. will forward their Price Current, containing more than Twenty Thousand prices.

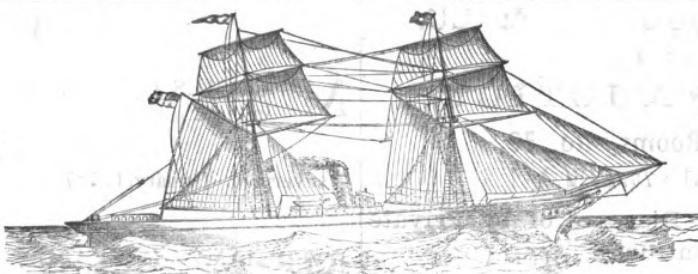
Messrs. BURGOYNE, BURBIDGES & Co. are thoroughly conversant with the Japan Markets, and are prepared to receive commission orders for any articles of British Manufacture, and having made this an important branch of their business, they are enabled to select the cheapest and best goods, securing the extremest discounts; they likewise receive consignments of produce.

Yokohama, June 21, 1873.

52ins.

MISCELLANEOUS.

IRON
STEAM
AND



SAIL-
ING
SHIPS.

COLE BROTHERS,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, ENGLAND,

Builders of all Classes of Iron Vessels up to the largest Dimensions.

TUGS, BARGES, &c.,

July 18, 1873.

IRON AND WOOD SHIPS REPAIRED.

52 ins.



LEA & PERRINS'
CELEBRATED
WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE
DECLARED BY CONNOISSEURS
TO BE

THE ONLY GOOD SAUCE.



CAUTION AGAINST FRAUD.

The success of this most delicious and unrivalled Condiment having caused certain dealers to apply the name of "Worcestershire Sauce" to their own inferior compounds, the Public is hereby informed that the only way to secure the genuine, is to

ASK FOR LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE,

and to see that their names are upon the *wrapper, labels, stopper, and bottle*.

Some of the foreign markets having been supplied with a spurious Worcestershire Sauce, upon the *wrapper and label* of which the names of Lea and Perrins have been forged, L. and P. give notice that they have furnished their correspondents with power of attorney to take instant proceedings against *Manufacturers and Vendors* of such, or any other imitations by which their right may be infringed.

ASK FOR LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE, AND SEE NAME ON
WRAPPER, BOTTLE, AND STOPPER,

Wholesale and for Export by the Propriétors, Worcester: Crosse and Blackwell, London, &c., &c.; and by Grocers and Oilmen universally.

Yokohama, March 7, 1874.

33ins.

BETTS'S CAPSULE PATENTS.

To prevent infringements, notice is hereby given, that *Betts's Name is on every Capsule he makes for the principal merchants in England and France*, thus enabling vendor, purchaser, and consumer, not only to identify the genuineness of the Capsule, but likewise the contents of the vessel to which it is applied.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in his judgment, said that the capsules are not used merely for the purpose of ornament, but that they are serviceable in protecting the wine from injury, and insuring its genuineness.

Manufactories:—1, Wharf-road, City-road, London, and; Bordeaux, France.

Yokohama, 6th July, 1872.

12m.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S
CELEBRATED OILMEN'S STORES

ALL WARRANTED OF SUPERIOR QUALITY.

PICKLES, SAUCES, SYRUPS.
JAMS, IN TINS AND JARS.
ORANGE MARMALADE, TART FRUITS, DESSERT FRUITS
PONCON, LISBON APRICOTS AND PEACHES.
MUSTARD, VINEGAR
FRUITS IN BRANDY AND NOYEAU.
POTTED MEATS AND FISH.
FRESH SALMON, OYSTERS AND HERRINGS.
KIPPERED SALMON AND HERRINGS.
HERRINGS A LA SARDINE.
PICKLED SALMON.
YARMOUTH BLOATERS.
BLACKWALL WHITEBAIT.
FRESH AND FINDON HADDOCKS.
PURE SALAD OIL.
SOUPS IN PINT AND QUART TINS.
PRESERVED MEATS IN TINS.
EAS, CARROTS, BEANS AND OTHER VEGETABLES
PRESERVED HAMS AND CHEESE.
PRESERVED BACON.
OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SAUSAGES.
BOLOGNA SAUSAGES.
YORKSHIRE GAME PATES.
YORKSHIRE PORK PATES.
TONGUES, GAME, POULTRY.
PLUM PUDDINGS.
LEA AND PERRINS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Fresh supplies of the above and numerous other table delicacies may always be had from every Storekeeper.

CAUTION.

Jars and Bottles should invariably be destroyed when empty, to prevent the fraud of refilling them with native productions. Goods should always be examined upon delivery, to detect any attempt at substitution of articles of inferior brands. Every Cork is branded with Crosse & Blackwell's name.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL

PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN.

SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.

At the Paris Exhibition of 1867, THREE Prize Medals were awarded to CROSSE & BLACKWELL, for the marked superiority of their productions.

Yokohama, May 27, 1872.

12ms.